

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Airport Commission convened in a regular session on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Boyce, Donnellan, Glass, Johnson,
and Chairperson Hsiao.

Absent: Commissioners Orpe and Jacobsen.

Also Present: Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian and
Business Manager Williams.

MOTION: Commissioner Donnellan moved to grant Commissioners Orpe and Jacobsen excused absences for the October 9, 2014 Commission meeting. Commissioner Glass seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Boyce led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Glass, seconded by Commissioner Donnellan, moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Glass moved to approve the Airport Commission meeting minutes of September 11, 2014. Commissioner Boyce seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Jacobsen and Orpe).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

6A. Commissioner Johnson commended City Council for finding the money to fund the Torrance Rose Float. He discussed the importance of Torrance Airport and noted that the Torrance Airport Association is conducting a drive to get people interested in it.

6B. John Bailey, Walnut Street, Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association, distributed TMC Section 51 pertaining to prohibited operations on holidays at the Airport. He stated that the holidays listed are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. He stated that on Martin Luther King

Day, Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, and Veteran's Day pilots at the Airport can perform prohibited operations because the City does not recognize those holiday in the TMC. He recommended that Commissioners direct staff to place an item on a future agenda to discuss adding those holidays.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7A. ANNUAL REVIEW OF AVIAD BANNER TOW BUSINESS

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian provided background and recommended that the Commission conduct a review of Aviad LLC and recommend to City Council for Aviad to continue or discontinue banner tow operations at the Airport. Referring to Airfield and FAA Operations, he reported that Aviad has flown 50 flights during this period, with no FAA concerns and in the same pickup area as the other banner tow operator with no incidents. Regarding Noise Violations, he stated that there were no noise or early left turn violations attributed to Aviad's three aircraft during this time period; however, these aircraft conducted 27 noise tests, 6 of which did not pass. He noted that staff reached out to neighboring cities to request feedback and there were no complaints regarding banner tow aircraft; however, there were 8 complaints from Torrance residents. He also called attention to supplemental correspondence that was received after agenda packets were prepared.

Commissioner Glass inquired about the six noise tests and Nick Taylor, Aviad, explained that they were departures to the east and, because they operate from the east end of the Airport, aircraft are unable to get enough altitude when they fly over residential areas. He stated that Aviad is asking the FAA to be able to move when it is an east traffic departure day. He noted that aircraft towing the Longo banner in the supplemental material does not belong to Aviad.

Nancy Mansfield-Staudt, Paseo de las Delicias, Riviera Homeowners Association, stated that there have been several complaints about banner tow operations. She noted that the noise is intrusive into the neighborhood and many things being advertised do not benefit Torrance in any way. She stated that they are opposed to the renewal of Aviad's permit for banner tow operations.

John Bailey, Walnut Street, distributed a print out from WebTrak for the August 31 noise testing, stated that the aircraft registered 83 when it was on 237th Street; however, the noise meter is located in the Marble Estates area. He maintained that the noise could be worse than the meter reads. He also noted that helicopter training is moved to the south side of the Airport when there are banner tow operations, and this violates the noise ordinance. He urged the Commission to not allow Aviad to continue operations at the Airport.

Richard Root, Via Buena Ventura, stated that he noticed at least 11 banner tow operations over his neighborhood. He indicated that when banner tow operators take off to the west they veer off to the right to avoid meter #1. He stated that there is no way to know how much noise they are making. Referring to his email dated October 8, he stated that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the City to assess environmental impacts before it approves a permit and questioned if the City has completed the CEQA Checklist. He recommended that a noise consultant be retained

by the City to determine how much noise banner tow operations make and, that if Commissioners had this information, they could make an informed decision.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian responded that CEQA was brought up at a June City Council meeting and that the City Attorney advised that it was not required. He suggested that he consult with the City Attorney to find out why.

Fernando Gallegos, Via Linda Vista, received clarification from staff that banner tow aircraft fly slower so the noise lasts longer, and that their permit fees, business licenses, fuel purchases, and hangar rentals benefit the City.

Responding to Chairperson Hsiao's inquiry, Manager Megerdichian stated that technically Aviad had no noise violations because they asked for a test flights.

In response to Commissioner Boyce's inquiry, Mr. Taylor stated that they conducted so many test flights because they need data from different aircraft and pilots to support their request to the FAA. He explained that traffic direction is dictated by the Control Tower, mainly due to wind conditions.

Neva Gallegos, Via Linda Vista, asked about flight patterns and Manager Megerdichian stated that aircraft should be north of Pacific Coast Highway when heading to the ocean.

Commissioner Johnson stated that many banner tow aircraft go right over his home and it does not bother him. He noted that Aviad has done everything the Commission has asked and that they have no legal right to deny continued operations.

Commissioner Donnellan stated that many people have approached him claiming that the noise is intrusive and is diminishing their quality of life.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved to recommend that City Council renew Aviad's annual permit to operate banner tow operations from the Airport. Commissioner Glass seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 3-2 roll call vote as follows (absent Commissioners Jacobsen and Orpe):

AYES: Commissioners Boyce, Glass, and Johnson.

NAYS: Commissioner Donnellan and Chairperson Hsiao.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8A. AERONAUTICAL OPERATIONAL INFORMATION UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Hsiao noted that the following reports for September 2014 were included in agenda materials: Hangar and Tiedown Rental Status, Ongoing Projects, October Meeting Room Calendar, Hangar Waiting List, Events Requiring Emergency Response for August and September, and Airfield Operations Status for August.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that the Airport Security Project is coming along nicely, noting that LED lighting has been installed in the East Ts. He advised that completion of the project is expected the end of 2014.

8B. NOISE ABATEMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian presented the Noise Abatement Quarterly Report for July 1 to September 30, 2014.

Commissioners Glass and Johnson requested that hard copies be sent to their homes in advance of Commission meetings, and Commissioner Glass asked that staff inquire as to the meaning of the numbers and letters in the Reason? column.

Commissioner Glass questioned why there were so many responses "No aircraft found on WebTrak" in the Comments column; Manager Megerdichian explained how Noise Abatement staff attempt to identify aircraft, noting that the City is in the process of trying to get better radar feeds.

Mr. Root stated that Torrance WebTrak shows few aircraft and that he uses LAX WebTrak, adding that the N numbers do not show up. He noted that the City can identify the N numbers by listening to the communication between pilot and Tower. He commented that the number of violations for the quarter is low and that the complaint log is long but worthwhile.

Referring to event date 9/13 on page 22, Mr. Bailey stated that there were complaints for two incidents but only one violation was given. He recommended only listing event dates and not received dates, and he expressed disappointed that Noise Abatement staff was not present to answer questions.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

9A. Commissioner Glass discussed an article about Santa Monica Airport in the current Air and Space magazine.

9B. Commissioner Donnellan concurred that Noise Abatement staff should attend Commission meetings to answer questions.

9C. Mr. Root stated that an update on WebTrak was scheduled for this meeting and Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian offered to relay his concern.

9D. Mr. Bailey asked when the noise meter near New Horizons would be upgraded.

9E. Mr. Root questioned when early left turns would be treated as violations.

9F. Chairperson Hsiao requested an excused absence for the November 13, 2014 Commission meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Glass moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, November 13, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Donnellan seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Approved as amended November 13, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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Deborah Schaffer
Recording Secretary